

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY
NO. 3

(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 88)

(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)

(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)

VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division

1 Jefferson Barracks Drive

Saint Louis

Independent City

Missouri

HABS MO-1943-AH

MO-1943-AH

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY 3 (BUILDING 88)

HABS No. MO-1943-AH

Location: Building 88, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7257864 E 9965334 N

Date of Construction: 1989

Designer: Knott & Robert, Engineers, Durham, North Carolina

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Present Use: Laundry

Significance: Laundry 3 was part of a 1980s project to upgrade facilities at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division. Laundry 3 replaced Laundry 2 (Building 48) and has served as the hospital's laundry facility since its completion in 1989. Laundry 2 was built in 1952 to replace the original hospital laundry built in 1923, Laundry 1 (Building 6). Laundry 3 continues to serve as the main laundry facility for the medical center.

Project Information: This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

Laundry 3 (Building 88) is a one-story flat-roof building with cladding of yellow brick and brown split-faced concrete block. The western three-fourths of the building has a higher roofline than the east portion. The building is situated on the north end of the medical center campus, on a grass lawn. The interior is mostly unaltered and contains 1980s laundry equipment.

The facade of Laundry 3 faces east and includes a center portion with a tinted-glass-curtain wall. The curtain wall is flanked on each side by a yellow-brick bay, and each bay has two large overhead metal cargo doors. The main entrances to the building are aluminum and glass doors located in the central curtain wall area. Above the curtain wall and the brick loading-dock bays is a horizontal band of split-faced brown concrete block. The band is wider over the center curtain wall and narrower over the flanking loading-dock bays.

The north and south walls of Laundry 3 are composed of yellow brick with two bands of brown split-faced concrete block. Both walls have a large band of windows at the center of the wall: a band of long, narrow windows on the bottom level and a band of smaller square windows higher up on the wall. The windows are surrounded by brown split-faced concrete block. The building's west (rear) wall features two bands of brown split-faced concrete block, a large metal louvered ventilator opening, and a set of flat steel double doors.

The interior of the building consists of a small office and lobby complex on the east central side of the building, and a larger open area. Most of the interior space is taken up by this open area, which contains various pieces of industrial washing, drying, and pressing equipment for the laundry operation. This open laundry space is industrial in character, with concrete floors, concrete-block walls, and open steel truss ceilings. The building also has a few small rooms in the rear (west end) of the building.

History:

From the beginning of the facility's operation in 1923, the VA Hospital at Jefferson Barracks has needed the capability to clean large quantities of laundry. For most of the hospital's life as a general medical facility (1923-1951), the original laundry, Laundry 1 (Building 6) served this function. When the hospital was expanded and converted to a neuropsychiatric hospital in 1950-1952, a new and larger laundry facility (Laundry 2, Building 48) was built.

In 1989, another larger and more up-to-date laundry was constructed, Laundry 3. The building is flat roofed and has yellow brick on the exterior to blend in with the existing 1950s buildings in the northern part of the medical center campus. The exterior also

features brown split-faced concrete-block trim and a glass curtain wall on the building's east side.

The original 1985 floor plan for Laundry 3 shows an office and locker room block in the front (east) portion of the building, a large open laundry space in the center, and a series of utility rooms on the rear (west) portion of the building. The plans for the office and locker room block include a supervisor's office, two locker rooms for employees, and a lunchroom and rest area. The laundry room space plan includes washer and extractor equipment, a sorting area, and two large commercial-size dryers. Original laundry equipment was provided by the Gardner Machinery Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, and plans for the building were drawn up by Knott & Robert, Engineers, of Durham, North Carolina, under the direction of U.S. Veterans Administration.¹ The interior of the building today does not appear to have changed significantly from what is shown on the 1985 floor plan.

Several buildings will be demolished in the vicinity of Laundry 3 as part of upcoming plans for the redevelopment of the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division. However, development plans call for Laundry 3 to remain in service, with no plans to demolish this building in the coming years. The building continues to serve as the main laundry facility for the medical center's Jefferson Barracks division.

Sources:

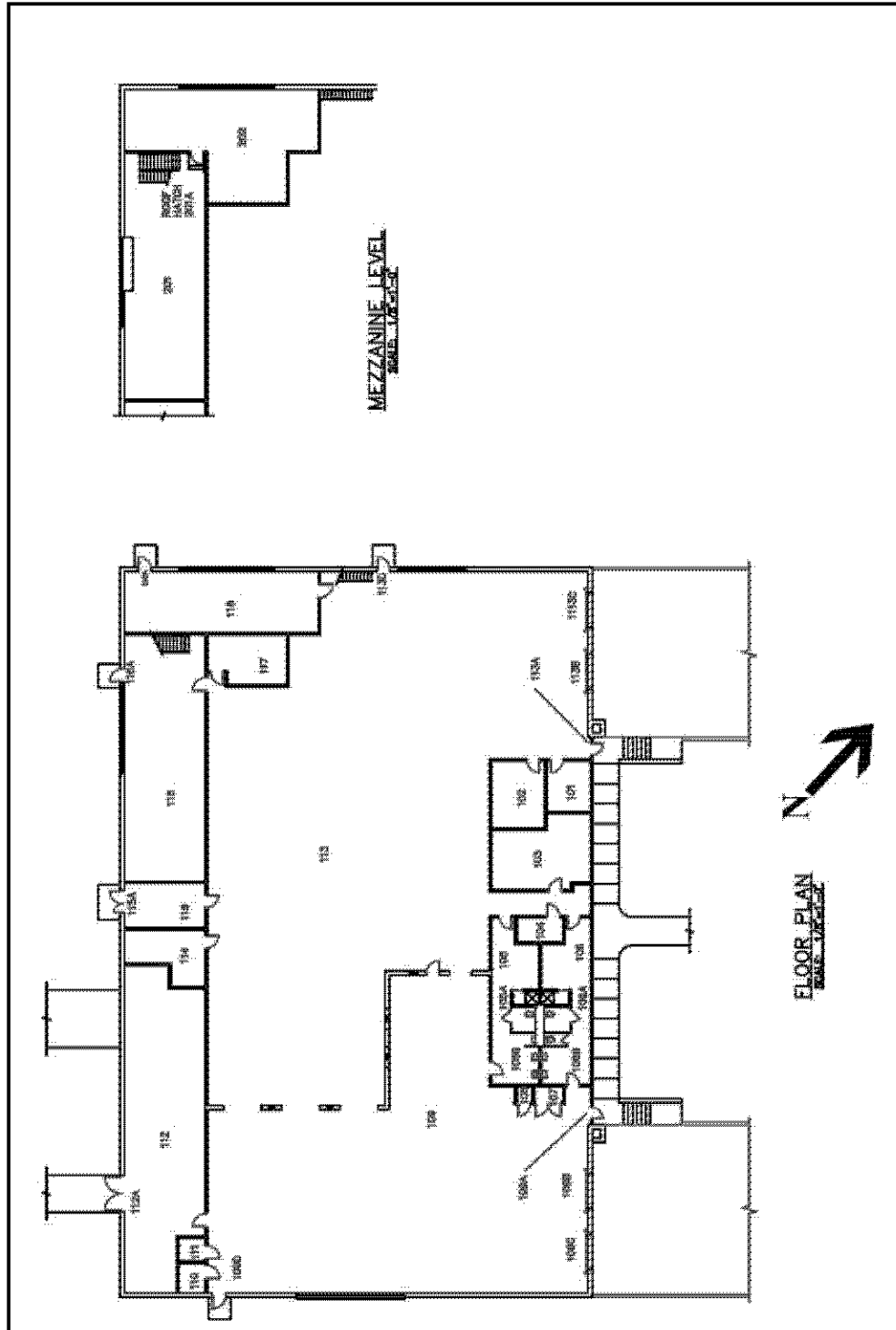
Knott and Robert, Engineers. *Floor Plan – Laundry Equipment Layout, Veterans Administration, St. Louis, Mo.* 1985. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

Historians:

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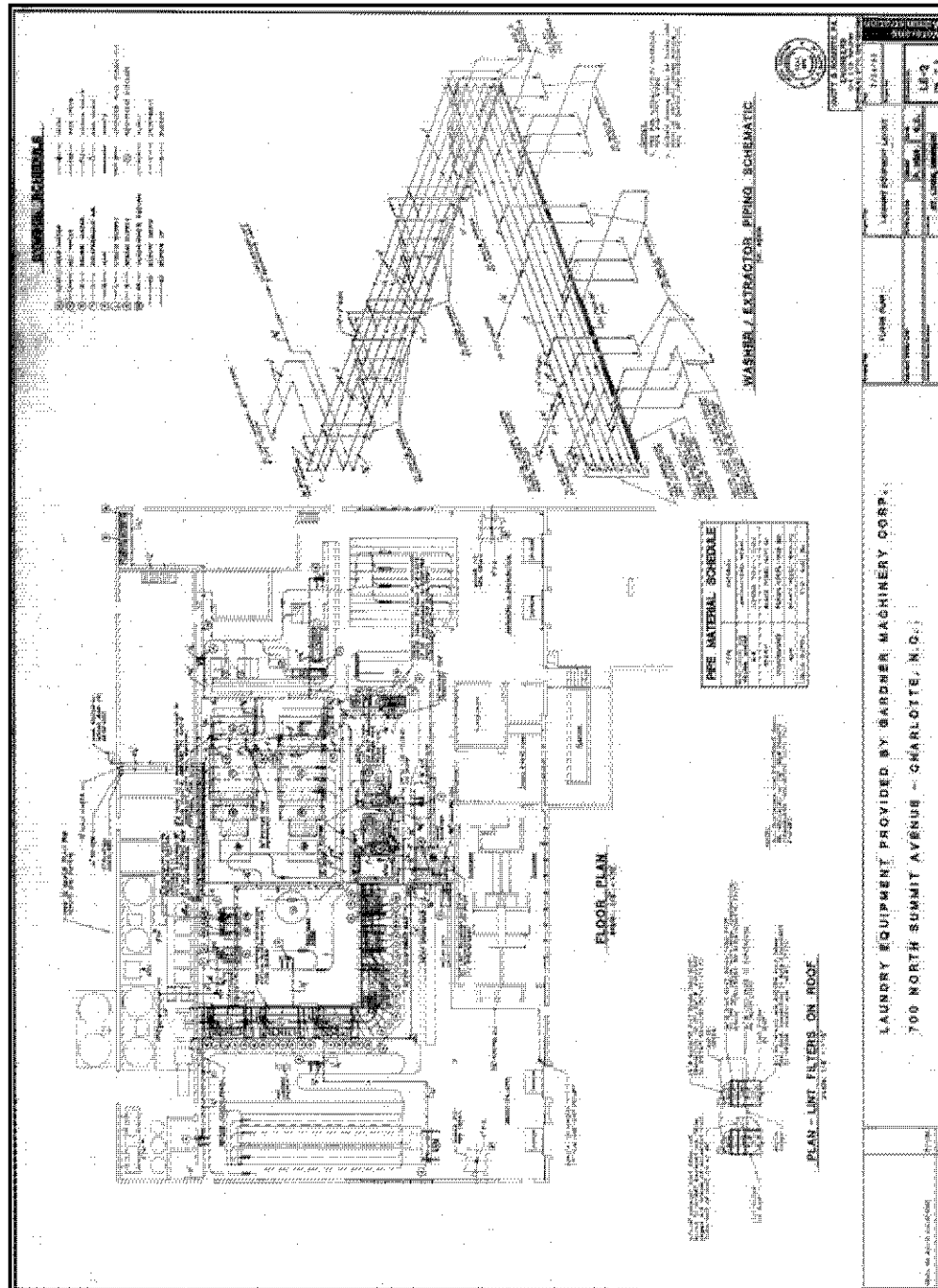
¹ Knott and Robert, Engineers, *Floor Plan – Laundry Equipment Layout, Veterans Administration, St. Louis, Mo.*, 1985, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

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Laundry 3 (Building 88), current floor plans

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Original floor plans for Laundry 3 (Building 88), 1985